GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:653
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2000
PLUG POWER TRANSMISSION LOSSES
SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing power losses at the transmission stages in the Southern states;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to plug power transmission losses?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (c) : Yes, Sir. The losses being incurred by various State Governments on account of power theft cannot be assessed separately. The total T&D losses due to theft of power, losses due to technical reasons and unaccounted losses as assessed by the concerned State Electricity Boards/State Electricity Departments for the year 1997-98 are given below:-

S.No.	State	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.14
2.	Karnataka	19.31
3.	Kerala	18.73
4.	Tamil Nadu	17.29
5.	Lakshadweep	15.70
6.	Pondichery	13.56

Theft of power has already been recognised as a cognizable offence under the Section 39 of the Indian ElectricityAct, 1910 with deterrent punishment upto 3 years imprisonment, or fine of not less Rs.1000 or both.

Though the power distribution falls within the purview of the State Governments and the activities pertaining to prevention of theft of electricity and removing of illegal connection have to be taken care of by the power utilities operating under their jurisdiction.

Guidelines for Energy Audit and for reduction of transmission and distribution losses have already been issued which included:-

i. Installation of meters inside tamper proof meter boxes sealed with numbered seals.

ii. Setting up of vigilance squads and conducting surprise raids to check theft of energy.

iii. Prosecution against persons found indulging in theft of energy.

In the Power Ministers` Conference held on 26.2.2000, it was resolved to reduce the T&D losses by energy audit, 100% metering, reduction of power theft, and strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system.